



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held February 8, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Receive and file annual review of Board policy on acceptance of Foreign Consulate Identification Cards (FCICs); and approve amendment to Board policy regarding the acceptance of FCICs, to clarify the types of reliable identifying information which are required to obtain the card, as determined acceptable by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Ruben Beltran, Consul General of Mexico, and Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian responded to questions posed by the Board. Francisco Rivera, Celes King IV, Miriam Galicia Duarte, Dr. Genevieve Clavreul and other interested persons also addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Consulate issued cards provide an open door to criminals. The limited background checks conducted are not shared with our criminal databases or terrorist watch lists. Meanwhile, cardholders are able to travel on airplanes, open bank accounts and assume new identities. Acceptance of these cards encourages illegal immigration which constitutes de facto amnesty for illegals.

“Furthermore, these cards open opportunities for obtaining additional identification cards and threaten our domestic security while undermining the general welfare of the citizens of this nation. Federal authorities have concluded that these cards are not reliable sources of identification. In a 2003 testimony before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, officials from the FBI stated that “the Mexican Consular can be a perfect breeder document for establishing a false identity.”

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“The Chief Administrative Officer’s Board letter and report suggest that the previously issued cards by the Mexican Consulate, which are also the cards predominantly in circulation today, are being accepted by County staff. These cards do not expire until early 2007 and are easily counterfeited. Without solicitation, a member of the public obtained a Matricula Consular card using my photograph, name and business address on three separate occasions. While the counterfeit card greatly resembles the genuine cards issued by the Mexican Consulate, there are some differences even among the genuine cards issued by the Consulate such as the color, the type and size of the lettering and the signature block on the back of the card.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, that the Board rescind their acceptance of Foreign Consulate Identification cards.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Burke and Molina:

“The County’s policy of accepting Foreign Consulate Identification Cards (FCIC) has produced positive results in early stages of implementation. For example, it has resulted in the increased utilization of Public Library resources which presumably lead toward higher literacy rates. It has also assisted individuals to establish child support cases and it has been used by law enforcement to contact and identify individuals.

“However, given the issues raised today about the potential problems associated with the authentication of FCICs, it would be prudent for the County to maximize training of all employees who may come in contact with such cards. Increased training and awareness by County personnel should not only assist in the authentication of the FCICs but also serve as a deterrent for anyone seeking to present false identification of this type.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a substitute motion, seconded by Supervisor Molina, that Board take the following actions:

1. Approve the Chief Administrative Officer’s attached recommendations;
and

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2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- Coordinate with all participating foreign consulates participating in the Foreign Consulate Identification Card (FCIC) Program in order to further develop training that will assist County employees to properly authenticate FCICs; and
- Continue to monitor the outcomes of the FCIC Program and report back its findings to the Board in one year.

Said substitute motion was duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Burke, Yaroslavsky and Molina; Noes: Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
County Counsel